



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Mr. Ernie Lazar
Post Office Box 423434
San Francisco, CA 94142-3434

✓ Subject of Request: George Deatherage ^{28 2001}

FOIPA No.: 446362 /190-_____

Dear Requester:

Reference is made to our prior correspondence wherein you were advised we were consulting with one or more other Government agencies concerning the releasability of information contained in records responsive to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts request.

We have completed this consultation and the enclosed material is being released to you with excisions made pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section(s) 552/552a as noted below. An explanation of these exemptions is enclosed for your convenience.

Section 552

- ☐ (b)(1)
☐ (b)(2)
☐ (b)(3) _____

☐ (b)(4)
☐ (b)(5)
☒ (b)(6)

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
☐ (b)(7)(B)
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Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
☐ (j)(2)
☐ (k)(1)
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☐ (k)(5)
☐ (k)(6)
☐ (k)(7)

If you desire, you may appeal any denials contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, United States Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, within sixty days from the receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely yours,

Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

Enclosures (2)

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 26, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Knights of the White Camellia
American Nationalist Confederation
George E. Deatherage

b7c FBI

With further reference to our memorandum dated May 3, 1941 requesting information pertaining to various organizations mentioned in your memorandum to us dated November 29, 1940, and the memoranda sent to us with reference to the above organizations under date of July 24, 1941, we now request an investigation of the above named organizations and individual, and the assistance of your Bureau in obtaining for us certain specific information at the earliest convenient date. This investigation and specific information are needed especially in connection with possible prosecutive action under the Voorhis Act by reason of the failure of the above organization to register, but other statutes may also be applicable.

Your memorandum of July 24, 1941 describes these organizations with considerable detail. It appears that these organizations are functioning under the leadership of George E. Deatherage and that the organizations, as well as Deatherage, have consistently followed a profascist policy, and have been the means of distribution of subversive pamphlets and publications to a substantial constituency.

Your references to the activities of these organizations as reflected in the report of a Special Committee on un-American Activities of the House of Representatives, indicate that they are national organizations with branches in various parts of the country. At pages 3471 and 3472 of the testimony given, the Knights of the White Camellia was stated to be a membership secret organization with chapters in all sections of the country except New England. It also appears at page 3473 that Deatherage discussed with [redacted] of the German-American Bund international communism, and that he exchanged pamphlets and other publications with governmental propaganda agencies in Germany as well as Italy. Deatherage prepared an article entitled "Will America Be Jewry's

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Waterloo?" which was circulated from Erfurt, Germany. (Pages 3493-4)
It is also indicated that he had in mind a military organization. (Page 3498)
Deatherage had made personal visits to the German Consulate in San Francisco and to the German Embassy at Washington. (Pages 3529-31)

The following enumeration calls for the principal elements of information and documentary data with which we desire to be furnished at this time:

A. Organization Structure

1. Certified copies of certificates of incorporation, constitutions, by-laws, and amendments thereto.
2. Addresses of principal offices, names and location of all branches.
3. Names and addresses of present officers, trustees and directors of the national organizations and all branches, as well as those who have served since 1938.
4. Names and addresses of employees and agents of the parent and branch units and character and length of their employment.
5. Particulars of citizenship of each of the above persons; present business or occupation, name of employer, length of employment and salary; details on financial condition of these officers, agents and employees, including bank accounts, ownership of stocks, bonds and other assets.

B. Membership

6. Requisites for membership and application form; oaths or pledges required of candidates, character of installation, initiation and ritual.
7. Membership cards.
8. Amount of dues or assessments and how payable.
9. Membership lists with addresses of members and particulars, as requested in subsection 5 hereof, of at least the leading members of each group.

C. Management

10. Itemization of all income and origin of all assets, including contributions from all sources and dues, especially income derived from foreign sources, directly or indirectly.
11. Itemization of all expenditures, i. e., operating expenses, officers' salaries, funds expended for publicity, publications, movies and radio broadcasts, uniforms and equipment, or for the staging of demonstrations or pageants; funds paid to other organizations or agencies; all expenditures made to a foreign government or an agency thereof, directly or indirectly.

D. Activities

12. Places and times of meetings; whether open or secret; purpose, character and attendance of meetings; salutes used, oaths or declarations recited, flags or symbols used; speeches or addresses made at meetings, ~~with names and affiliation of persons delivering them;~~ uniforms worn, drills, marches, calisthenics, military maneuvers, or other organized group movements; character of instruction given to members; all other activities of the above organizations and their branches.
13. Radio and newspaper tie-up, if any; samples of manuals, pamphlets or other printed material utilized by the organizations should be obtained if possible, with information as to the source, i. e., where printed, when and by whom compiled or written. Minutes or full reports of meetings should also be obtained, if possible.

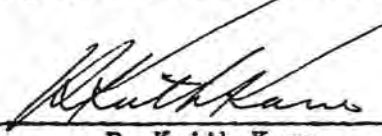
E. Foreign Control

14. All activities of the organizations and their chapters that may be carried on, either directly or indirectly in collaboration with, under the direction or with the assistance of, any agent or agency of a foreign government and any correspondence passed between such agencies and the organizations.

We have under consideration the recommendation of proceedings at an early date with regard to the above organization, and we would therefore appreciate as early a response as practicable in this matter.

LAWRENCE M. C. SMITH
Chief, Special Defense Unit

By


R. Keith Kane
Assistant Chief

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 26, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Knights of the White Camellia
American Nationalist Confederation
George E. Deatherage
Voorhis Act

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm

b7C FBI

This is to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum relating to the above matters dated September 20, 1941, enclosing certain reports of your Special Agents in various localities, sent to us in connection with our request dated August 26, 1941.

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With reference to the inquiries set forth in said memorandum, the request for this investigation arose upon receipt of your memorandum of July 24, 1941 which enclosed data relating to various organizations, including the subject organization, Knights of the White Camellia under date of July 15, 1941. In that memorandum you state (based upon declarations of [redacted] that Deatherage, the leader of the said group,

"is definitely militaristic in his views, being anxious to organize a strong military unit which can be brought into action in the time of a national crisis," and that Deatherage uses a swastika as his emblem. It was further pointed out in your report that

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"Deatherage is reported to lean toward the Hitler type of dictatorship, and since he is the driving force behind the Knights of the White Camellia, he has obviously used this organization as a mode of transit for this ideal. In this connection he has been known on occasions to attend what are termed as 'Council Meetings' in Washington, D.C. of Silvershirt representatives, and is reported to be a member of the inner circle of all Fascist groups in America. He has used the organization to distribute the literature of [redacted] and [redacted] well known Fascists and anti-Semites."

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In speaking of the American Nationalist Confederation which Deatherage heads, the reports refer to advertisements of literature obtainable from this organization, appearing in "World Service," a paper published in Frankfurt, Germany and mailed to various addressees in the United States. That Deatherage in 1938, at the invitation of Dr. Goebbels, went to Erfurt, Germany, to attend a conference of foreign agents of the "World Service," a notorious Nazi propaganda organization where he delivered a talk. It is further reported that in May 1939, Deatherage admitted before the Dies Committee that he was linked with the Fascists of Italy. It further appears that Deatherage had connections with the German-American Bund and other subversive organizations in America and that he was, on August 29, 1939, the principal speaker at a meeting in the Bronx, New York City, conducted by the Christian Mobilizers and attended by approximately 5,000 people; that [REDACTED] also spoke at the meeting, and approximately 60 uniformed Bundists were present. (Pages 7 - 8)

In the confidential memorandum from national headquarters of The American Nationalist Confederation (one of the exhibits enclosed by you), there is a clear indication that the form and structure of the organization was on a military basis with military titles of leaders from Chief of Staff down to Post Commanders. In that very exhibit, it is stated:

"Armed conflict being unavoidable, it is necessary that the Party structure be built around a system of disciplined and unified control No army can fight a successful war without that disciplined obedience—and this is war that we are faced with"

"The Military Defense Section shall be similarly organized into its respective charted divisions, namely:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Recruiting Division | 2. Staff Advisors |
| 3. Judicial Division | 4. Administrative Division |
| 5. Officers Training Corps | 6. Educational Division |
| 7. Intelligence Division | 8. Defense Troops Division |

"Details of staff organization will be presented through channels as recruiting and organization proceeds.

"Public parades in uniform shall not be held except on permission from the Leader, and the times at which uniform is to be worn shall have also his approval.

(Signed) National Commander
Staff Headquarters
April 2, 1938"

In another memorandum to us dated November 29, 1940, you included the Knights of the White Camellia in a suggested list of organizations which would appear to come within the purview of the Voorhis Act.

From the statements in said reports and the other supporting data therein, we were and still are of the opinion that these organizations and the activities of Deatherage on their behalf, were of such a character as would indicate, presumptively, at least, that there was a possibility that they violated the Voorhis Act and/or the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or other applicable statutes. There is the strong indication of foreign control and political activity as set forth in subdivision 1 of the Voorhis Act. An investigation may also develop such civilian military activity to bring it within the purview of other subdivisions of the Act. In this connection, your general interpretation of the Voorhis Act seems to coincide with our views thereon, with the exception that in the fourth category you use the word "the" before "Government," whereas the statute uses the word "a," indicating that any Government as distinguished from the Government of the United States was probably intended.

Noting your desire to limit investigations at this time to the most important matters by reason of shortage of personnel, and in realization of the fact that a substantial number of organizations have been submitted to you for investigation in connection with possible Voorhis Act violations, we offer the suggestion that the investigation of the subject organizations be deferred until such time as you find feasible under the circumstances.

LAWRENCE M. C. SMITH
Chief, Special Defense Unit

By 
R. Keith Kane
Assistant Chief